

## **THE CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO EXPAND BIOENTREPRENEUR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

Diagnostics Executive Mohan Chellani and Entrepreneur Michael Bielski  
selected to evaluate emerging SBU technologies

**STONY BROOK, N.Y. – February 5, 2015** – The [Center for Biotechnology at Stony Brook University](#) announced today the appointment of Mohan Chellani, PhD, and Michael Bielski, MS, JD to the position of BioEntrepreneurs-In-Residence (B-EIR). Both Dr. Chellani and Mr. Bielski have extensive bioscience industry experience at the senior management level, and have successfully commercialized multiple academic innovations. Their roles as BEIRs is to identify technologies that have the potential to support company formation in the region. Each brings unique skills and perspectives to technology assessment and bioscience-startups.

Dr. Chellani has over twenty years of experience in the diagnostics industry prior to his appointment as B-EIR, having served as VP, Scientific Affairs at Enzo Biochem, and as a Director and Advisor to Quest Diagnostics. He has also served as founder and CEO of two start-up companies, Progen Life Sciences and Discitis Diagnostics. Dr. Chellani holds a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from UMD-New Jersey and an MBA from Fordham University.

Mr. Bielski has founded multiple technology companies, including co-founding NewLeaf Symbiotics, Inc., an agricultural biotechnology company that has raised over \$25M in venture capital. He also served as the Assistant Director for Science and Technology Commercialization at the Center for Biotechnology for six years prior to pursuing his entrepreneurial ventures. Mr. Bielski holds a JD and an MS in Neuroscience from Syracuse University.

Both Dr. Chellani and Mr. Bielski will conduct due diligence to identify a technology or technologies around which they may build a company. If successful, they will also be provided with access to a technology development budget that will help them position the technology for commercialization. B-EIRs also have access to the Center's business and technology development support staff to help develop appropriate business strategies. Ultimately, the goal is to help the company prepare for SBIR/STTR grant opportunities, and Angel and VC investment.

“The Center for Biotechnology is thrilled to be able to continue to expand our B-EIR Program with the appointments of Dr. Chellani and Mr. Bielski” Diane Fabel, Director of Operations for the Center for Biotechnology stated. “Establishing new bioscience ventures can be fraught with risks and our goal with the B-EIR program is to accelerate technology development and increase the success rate of new ventures to the greatest extent possible.”

Dr. Chellani and Mr. Bielski join the ranks of Joseph Scaduto, MS, MBA, Reinhard Warnking, and Andreas Grill who are currently serving in the B-EIR role. In June 2013 Mr. Scaduto launched Traverse Biosciences, Inc, a biotechnology company that is focused on

commercializing novel drug candidates for the treatment of inflammatory diseases and related conditions affecting humans and companion animals. He has successfully negotiated an exclusive option to license the technology from Stony Brook University and has also received venture funding through the Long Island Emerging Technologies Fund and Accelerate Long Island.

Mr. Warnking, a serial entrepreneur in the medical device sector, has successfully established operations for Guided Interventions, a start-up company developing a novel fractional flow reserve (FFR) guidewire technology within the Long Island High Technology Incubator in Stony Brook. The Company has secured a round of venture capital funding and is pursuing pivotal studies that could soon bring their technology to its next significant milestone.

Mr. Grill, formerly Executive Director of the Forest Research Institute, will lead a joint venture between Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and Ohr Pharmaceutical to develop novel cancer therapeutics. The company, DepYmed, will begin operations on Long Island in early 2015. Mr. Grill will serve in the role of CEO.

The B-EIR program was made possible with initial contributions from the Center for Biotechnology, Stony Brook University, SUNY Research Foundation, Suffolk County Economic Development Corporation, and private donors.

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### **About the Center for Biotechnology at Stony Brook University**

The Center for Biotechnology is a cooperative research and development partnership between universities, private industry and New York State. It is involved in the discovery and early stage development of commercially promising technologies resulting from academic research, and the creation of strategic infrastructure that promotes the growth of the life sciences industry. The Center for Biotechnology has contributed to the development of more than a dozen approved products including ReoPro, Oracea, Cavistat, V3D Colon Virtual Colonoscopy and Exogen Bone Healing System. It has also helped launch eighteen companies.